

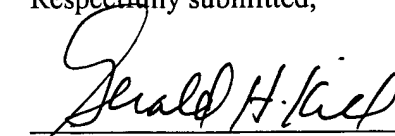
REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are now pending in the application. Claims 9 and 14 are amended. Claim 18 is added. No new matter is presented. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner for indicating that claims 12, 13, 16, and 17 contain allowable subject matter. In view of the Examiner's comments, the above amendments and the following remarks are considered by Applicants to overcome each rejection raised by the Examiner and to place the application in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

Claims 9-11, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kapitza (U.S. Patent No. 5,896,224). Claim 9 is amended to incorporate the allowable features recited in claim 12. By this amendment, claim 9 recites allowable features. Claims 10, 11, 14, and 15 are dependent upon claim 9, therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9-11, 14, and 15.

Claim 18 is added incorporating the features of the claim 9, 12, and 14. No new matter is presented. Therefore, Applicants request the allowance of claim 18. For the reasons presented above, claims 1-11, and 13-18, all the claims pending in the application, are believed by Applicants to define patentable subject matter and should be passed to issue at the earliest possible time. A Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald H. Kiel
Reg. No. 25,116

REED SMITH LLP
599 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10022
(P) 212-521-5400

Attorney for Applicant